SOUTH VIET NAM In Struggle

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CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION

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editorial

Thieu's fate and the ending of the Viet Nam war

A peaceful settlement of the South Viet Nam issue, on the one hand calls for the safe withdrawal of all troops, advisers and military personnel, weapons and war materiel of the US and of countries belonging to the US camp within a definite time-limit, coupled with the dismantling of military bases in South Viet Nam and with the cessation of all air, naval and other war activities directed against the South Vietnamese people. On the other it requires the termination of US support for the US-installed warlike junta, Thieu's resignation and a change in the Saigon regime's policy of oppression and coercion against the people. Those are two crucial issues expounded in the 7-point peace initiative by the PRG made public on July 1st, 1971 and elaborated on February 2nd, 1972.

Up to now the US side has refused to give a serious response to those fundamental points. It has been forced to gradually withdraw troops but continues to intensify and protract its war through "Vietnamization." It has been trying to maintain the Nguyen Van Thieu quisling administration and resorting to extremely cruel military actions to protect and preserve US neo-colonialist domination. As long as the Nixon administration does not renounce its warlike and obdurate position as an aggressor, there can be no genuine peace in Viet Nam and no fair solution to the Viet Nam problem.

While the Nixon administration has not yet definitively fixed a time-limit for the pullout of troops, it goes on dodging a meaningful answer to the 7-point initiative by continuing its support to the fire-eating Nguyen Van Thieu gang. It purposely dissociates that question from the ending of the war and withdrawal of US troops, asserting that it has no intention to intervene in the internal political affairs of South Viet Nam, and to abolish institutions set up through universal suffrage. Nixon administration's assertions have been refuted by US opinion and by the reality in Viet Nam. They do not hold water as everyone knows that all the Saigon administration from the Diem-Nhu rule of the past to the Thieu regime of today have been all installed by the US as an instrument for carrying out its aggression and establishing its colonialist domination. The US Defence Department secret papers have confirmed this fact. So whose vote has been cast for such an administration? Was the October 1971 one-man show not sufficient to indicate that Nixon's was the only one ballot for Thieu?

It is clear that in trying to keep Thieu with all the most brutal military methods, the Nixon administration is doing what it claims it opposes: impose a political regime on the South Vietnamese people.

THE Thieu administration is a fascist dictatorship. Its anti-national and antipopular character is fully apparent in the "4 nays" policy reiterated by Thieu and fully approved by the Nixon administration. Its removal is being urged by the people and, as a matter of fact, it is disintegrating by chunks at its grassroots level. Consequently there is no reason for its subsistence and continuation if one really wants a settlement of the South Viet Nam issue. As long as that trigger-happy regime is maintained, the US does not renounce its "Vietnamization" and its neo-colonialist views upon South Viet Nam. While operating its forced troop withdrawals, it carries on its effort to continue in office the Thieu junta and goes on supporting it to "honour its commitment" which is in essence an imperialist aggression. In so doing, it only strives to preserve an instrument for Nixon's "Vietnamization," and a bridgehead for an eventual massive troop redeployment, when necessary, to save the collapse of US colonialist domination.

On the other hand, as pointed out by Minister Nguyen Thi Binh at the 151st session of the Paris Conference on Viet Nam, US intervention and aggression is not only military but also political. Therefore it is necessary to settle simultaneously both military and political problems in order to put an end to the US "involvement." As long as the US persists in its backing of the Thieu rule and wants to resolve the military question only there can be no sound solution for the South Viet Nam problem.

HOWEVER, Nixon cannot indefinitively keep his blood-thirsty satraps. The ground under the Independence Palace is collapsing. The South Viet Nam PLAF and people's current wave of offensives and uprisings started in late March 1972 has been crippling the Saigon regime. It is only an ailing body which is being sustained only with US dollars in order to prolong the last hours of "Vietnamization." Moreover, the US people grow more and more conscious that Nixon is sending their kin to the battlefront, forcing them to pay taxes to bolster up a gang of dictators and fascists and a colonialist regime abhorred by the South Vietnamese. The Americans are prevailing on him to scrap Thieu and to immediately bring their men home.

In the race to the White House the solution to the political aspect of the Viet Nam settlement has become one of the important issues raised by Nixon's opponent to beat him. In the near future, the latter will have to choose between two presidential offices. Which one to opt for? It is evident that he cannot choose both but has either to step over Thieu's head to get to the US presidency or side with the latter and serve as a ladder for his rival to get admitted to the White House. It is up to Nixon to decide. However, his choice does not entirely depend on his own will. The predicament of "Vietnamization," Nixon's heavy military setbacks in Viet Nam and Indochina, the antiwar movement of the US people and the world's protest against Nixon's "Vietnamization" are factors which can really seal the fate of the Nguyen Van Thieu gang.

Thieu's last hour has struck. For all his witchcraft, Mr Nixon is unlikely to be able to do anything about it.

SOUTH VIET NAM In Struggle

In the bag...oops!

LAST BATTLE FOUGHT

Nguyen Thai Binh's funeral attended by his kith and kin and Saigon students (his father has been arrested by US-Thieu after his death)

Editor's Note — *Nguyen Thai Binh was a patriotic Vietnamese, a fighter student. For this, he was slain by the Nixon - Thieu tandem which charged him with "attempted hijacking." From the very outset, world public opinion already identified Nixon and Thieu as the murderers.*

They feared him and his unalloyed patriotism. Every line left by him is more piercing than a sword. Nguyen Thai Binh got at the US aggressors right in their sanctuary. He told Nixon: It is the US administrations that "have been waging the war of aggression in Viet Nam, obstructing the restoration of peace, preventing the reunification of my beloved country." His position was unequivocal: "I am resolved to struggle by all means against any foreign aggressors who invade Viet Nam, that is now American imperialists." Under the very nose of the enemy, he declared: "No weapons, no threats can make me shrink." He "accepted the sacrifice for the great cause" with the pride of a Vietnamese in whom ran the blood of Le Loi and Quang Trung and of Nguyen Van Troi, Le Thi Hong Gam and Ho Thi Ky as well.

Nguyen Thai Binh was murdered by the enemy but his battle is not over. His offensive spirit which finds a clear expression in his open letters to the US President and the world's peoples, will carry the day in the end.

Open letter to president of the USA

July 1, 1972

NGUYEN THAI BINH
TO MR RICHARD NIXON,
PRESIDENT, UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA

Mr President,

I am Vietnamese, my name is Thai-Binh which means peace. A "Leadership" scholarship of the Agency for International Development brought me to the United States four years ago. As a Vietnamese student in Vietnamese affairs, I have studied the massive social, economic, and cultural damage caused by the US war of aggression in Viet Nam.

Viet Nam is thousands of miles away from the United States. The Vietnamese people have never done any harm to the United States.

But, for the past eighteen years, the US administrations have been systematically violating and sabotaging the 1954 Geneva agreements, waging the war of aggression in Viet Nam, obstructing the restoration of peace, preventing the reunification of of my beloved country.

Mr President, as the leader of the United States, you must know more throughly than anyone else about the magnitude of warcrimes against humanity, crimes against peace being committed by the US government in Viet Nam, as well as Laos and Cambodia.

I think you and your successors know perfectly clear about:

— how much bombs dropped in Indochina after you took office,

— how murderous your weapons are,

— how destructive on landscape, people the US bombing,

— how suffering millions of people in Indochina have endured under your hands, under the US policy of genocide, ecocide. If suppose a powerful country, which is a thousand times stronger than the USA, had been trampling underfoot the soil of the "beautiful" America in its war of aggression, those imperialist aggressors had been seizing American property, raping American women, forcing American men to kill each other and other human beings in the "Americanization" program, turning millions of American women into prostitutes, making 150 million Americans become refugees forced to live in abject misery and hunger, murdering 10 million American men, women and children, supporting a barbaric and repressive regime which puts 2 million American men, women and children in prison as political prisoners, in that case, I am sure you, as an American patriot, would fight against barbarians to save your country.

Fortunately for Americans, since the United States is the most powerful country in the world you are proud in your speeches many times on T.V. the United States has not been dominated yet.

The above things have been happening exactly in the same way, in the same proportion to Viet Nam during the last decades. May I ask you who has perpetrated those monstrous crimes?

— It is the United States and satellite troops. The US government is entirely responsible for the extremely serious situation in Viet Nam.

Mr president,

If anyone says that they will cut your body in half and call the upper half of your body A and the lower half B, would you agree?

Your answer will surely be *no*. With Vietnamese it is the same. We are Vietnamese, no matter where we were born, South or North, we have the right to struggle for the independence of our country — Viet Nam — according to our circumstances and means wherever we are.

You and your administration often propagandize that North Viet Nam has invaded the South, but we ask you to see the fallacy of such propaganda through the example given above. It is the struggle of the whole Vietnamese people for national salvation, for national liberation from the US domination. When South Viet Nam is invaded by a foreign force, cannot the people of the North help their fellow countrymen? All support and aid rendered by the North Vietnamese people to the South are within the sacred right of the Vietnamese people.

For the Vietnamese people, so long as the US aggressive forces remain on our soil, we resolutely fight against it. We rather sacrifice everything than lose our independence and be enslaved. It is crystal clear that no material force whatsoever can stamp out the will for independence and freedom of a people. We pledge ourselves to keep our independence oath:

"Nothing is more precious than independence and freedom" (*Ho Chi Minh*). Having gone through over twenty years of war, the Vietnamese people desire peace more eagerly than anyone else. But it must be a genuine peace in independence and freedom for the Vietnamese, not a sham peace, not an "American" peace. In response to the call of my beloved country, I am resolved to struggle by all means against any kind of foreign aggressors, who invade Viet Nam. It is now the American invaders.

Returning to Viet Nam to stand in the line of the Vietnamese people in the struggle for national liberation, I go to Hanoi. Mr. President, for the destruction, killing, burning in Viet Nam as well as in Indochina, you have had in your hands the whole of the most sophisticated, murderous weapons (chemical, biological, electronic ones). In the struggle for love, peace, justice I only have true to mankind. My cause is just. No weapons, no threats can make me shrink. With the Vietnamese, it is the same.

To defend Viet Nam from the US aggression, from the savage ambition of the leaders of the most powerful country in the world, the struggle of the Vietnamese people is full of hardships eventhough.

Today, my only bomb is my human heart which can explode since I accept the sacrifice for the great cause, to call for love, to restore faith in justice, to wake up the conscience of the enemies.

If I get killed, millions of Vietnamese will replace me to fight until we end this inhuman immoral war.

NGUYEN THAI BINH
Vietnamese

BY NGUYEN THAI BINH

Open letter to the peace-and justice-loving people in the world

Dear friends,

DURING the last decades, the American imperialists abusing the standard of liberty, equality, and fraternity, have violated our fatherland, oppressed our fellow countrymen. They have acted contrarily to the ideals of humanity and justice.

With the US policy of killing all, burning all, the American commanders have been using most murderous weapons against the civilian people including these banned by international law: B.52 bombers, napalm, phosphorous bombs, bullets, toxic gas, crop kill chemical products... In many localities, after massacring the people by indiscriminate bombings and intensive artillery fire, the US troops have also sought to asphixiate with toxic gas all those hiding in underground shelters.

For years, the inhuman technical and scientific achievements of the American scientists have been used in the chemical, biological, electronic warfare in Indochina with the most sophisticated, murderous weapons such as CBU cluster bomb, smart bomb, BLU-26b guava bomblets, 7.5 ton "cheeseburger" bomb, xm-41e gravel mine, mk-36 dragon tooth sensers, napalm, thermite, white phosphorus...

In Febuary 1971, President Nixon said: "I will not place any limit on air power." After Nixon took office, with 3.8 million tons of bombs, more bombs have been dropped in Indochina than the total dropped during World War II and the Korean War combined.

NOW, in the madness of the leaders at White house and Pentagon, they are committing the salvage war crimes by the barbaric, indiscriminate bombing, mining all over Viet Nam, costing countless Vietnamese lives, including innocent children, old women, destroying bridges, roads, pagodas, churches, schools, hospitals.

In South Viet Nam combat zones, the US troops are using civilians as an advance shield to fend off the Liberation armed forces' attacks. The more inhuman the American imperialists, the stronger the Vietnamese resistance. The barbarous atrocious bombings just stir up the hatred and strengthen the determination of the whole Vietnamese people.

In the eyes of the world, the United States becomes a kill-crazed nation. For the american, the problem of face saving is not to win the aggressive war but to end this inhuman, immoral war, now. The main responsibility, for defeating Nixon's new aggression and ending the war, rests with the people of the United States themselves.

We, Vietnamese, do not underestimate the ability of the US war machine to inflict suffering and brutality. The anti-human technology which a rapacious military establishment has employed to defend the investment of its masters has already written a new page in the history of cruelty, but the Vietnamese people have demonstrated that the power of people's war is greater than the death machinery employed by US imperialism.

We pledge ourselves to keep our independence oath:

"Nothing is more precious than independence and freedom." Having gone through over twenty years of war, the Vietnamese people desire peace more eagerly than anyone else to build their life, but it must be a genuine peace, a peace in independence and freedom, not a sham peace, not an "american" peace.

In the past, we defeated the Japanese fascists and the French colonialists. To-day, we are strong because of the justice of our cause, the unity of our entire people from North to South, our traditions of undaunted struggle, and the broad sympathy and support of the progressive people throughout the world. We shall win.

Dear friends,

I am Vietnamese, my name is Thai Binh, which means "peace." My parents name it to me to express the deepest aspiration of the Vietnamese people. A "leadership" scholarship of the Agency for International Development brought me to the United States four years ago. As a vietnamese student in vietnamese affairs, I have studied the massive social, economic and cultural damage caused by the US war of aggression in Viet Nam.

During the 1970 Summer, I had a chance to travel all over South Viet Nam in order to strengthen my viewpoint, to face directly, to understand deeply the real situation of the war, and to witness the magnitude of war crimes being committed by the US government against the people of Viet Nam,

For the Vietnamese people, so long as the US aggressive force remains on our soil, we resolutely fight against it. We rather sacrifice everything than lose our independence and be enslaved,

In response to the sacred call of the fatherland, awaring of the honour and responsibility of being an intellectual of the heroic Vietnamese people, I strongly declare that, I am resolved to struggle by all means against any foreign aggressors who invade Viet Nam, that is now American imperialists.

While the US administrations have been using the most sophisticated, murderous weapons to destroy the landscapes, to kill people, to bomb, to mine indiscriminately all over Viet Nam, in my fighting for peace, love and justice, I only arm with my unshakeable iron will, my indomitable spirit. No weapons, no threats can make me shrink. The same for the Vietnamese people.

I know my voice for peace cannot be heard, cannot defeat the roared sound of B.52, of the US bombings unless I take this dramatic action. This struggle is full of hardships. However, my only bomb is my human heart which can explode to call for love, faith and hope, to wake up the conscience of the vietnamese's enemies. If I fail, millions of vietnamese will replace me to fight until the war ends.

The peace-and justice-loving people in the world, raise your voice more powerfully and multiply your actions to stop the US imperialists in their war of aggression in Viet Nam.

Demand that the US government respect the fundamental national rights of the Vietnamese people.

Together with the entire Vietnamese people, we warmly acclaim and sincerely thank you all for your solidarity with and support to the Vietnamese people.

VIET THAI BINH
Vietnamese,

STATEMENT OF THE UNION OF VIETNAMESE IN THE UNITED STATES

ON Tuesday, July 4, 1972, the Union of Vietnamese in the United States held a conference in San Francisco and issued a statement entitled: *Concerning the Heroic Sacrifice of Nguyen Thai Binh.*

"Nguyen Thai Binh was proud of his name. "*Thai Binh*" means *peace*, the deepest aspiration of the Vietnamese people. Sometimes he called himself "Viet Thai Binh" — peace in Viet Nam".

"Nguyen Thai Binh came to the United States in 1968 to study. He recently graduated with honors from the University of Washington in Seattle. Over the past few years he was active in the movement to end US aggression in Viet Nam, participating on the take-over of the Saigon consulate in New York and the demonstration at Southern Illinois University. For his increasingly militant activities against the war, Binh along with 6 other South Vietnamese students in the US was facing deportation to Saigon. His return to Saigon would have meant immediate imprisonment or worse, and a widespread movement grew in the United States to block deportation and force the US government to grant Binh and his comrades political asylum.

"In a brutal and confusing series of events on July week-end at Saigon's Tan Son Nhat airport, Nguyen Thai Binh, 28, was shot dead inside a Pan-American jumbo jet just as it was landing. The official version is that he was killed trying to hijack the US plane to Hanoi to protest US bombing of Viet Nam."

The Union of Vietnamese in the United States called his death "the death of a patriot" who once declared: "I am willing to take any risk. My responsibility is to future generations of Vietnamese." Nevertheless, the group termed his death a "political assassination", citing the brutality of the murder (he was pumped full of bullets after having been subdued) and the mysterious participation of a former policeman travelling to Saigon in the killing. Nguyen Thai Binh was murdered by the racist pilot of the plane and a suspicious ex-cop who happened to be on the plane.

Binh's family was immediately arrested in Saigon and the father wasn't permitted to attend the funeral.

The Union of Vietnamese in the United States declared: "this is not the only obvious act of murder. In fact, millions of murderous acts have been carried out by the US government in the whole of Viet Nam for the past two decades. The Thieu puppet regime purposely permitted Americans to kill another Vietnamese on Vietnamese soil."

The Union, which released two open letters from Nguyen Thai Binh after his murder (one addressed to US president Nixon and the other to peace- and justice-loving people of the world), said he chose return to Hanoi, "to stand in the line of the Vietnamese people's struggle for national liberation," Binh was quoted as having written "I am resolved to struggle by all means against any kind of foreign aggressors who invade Vietnam".

The Union of Vietnamese in the United States demands:

1. the murder of Nguyen Thai Binh be exposed before the people of Viet Nam and world opinion.
2. the Thieu puppet regime release immediately Binh's family under arrest in Saigon.
3. the US government immediately satisfy the just aspirations of the Vietnamese people which had courageously struggled for:

a) the US government must set terminal for withdrawal from South Viet Nam of the totality of US force and those of other countries in the US camp...

b) the US government must respect the freedom, independence and right of self-determination of the Vietnamese people, the US government must put an end to Vietnamization and stop supporting the Thieu regime.

c) the US government must stop immediately all bombing of Viet Nam and in particular of railroads and dyke systems, the US government must put an end to the blockade of Haiphong, Hon Gai, Cam Pha, Vinh, Quang Khe and Dong Hoi.

In conclusion, the Union of Vietnamese in the United States calls on people everywhere to take whatever action in support of the sacrifice of Nguyen Thai Binh for peace, freedom and independence of our country, and to protest the barbaric invasion by the US government in Viet Nam."

On Tri-Thien front

US-SAIGON TROOPS MIRED DOWN

SINCE June 28, together with a noisy propaganda campaign about the "counter-offensive for recapturing territory" and "turning the offensive tide of the Communists," an operation codenamed "Lam Son 712" has been mounted by the US-Saigon rule on the northern bank of the My Chanh river in an effort to boost up the fast declining morale of the Saigon army and deceive public opinion in the United States and the world.

On Nixon's orders, the Thieu gang has mustered more than 20,000 troops of the para and the marine divisions, their remaining strategic reserve forces. They had a big plan in mind – as disclosed to the Western press by a source close to White House: "To recapture Quang Tri town before July 13" (*AFP*, July 7), the date of the reconvening of the Paris Conference on Viet Nam, and to coincide with the Democratic Party Convention in Miami which was to nominate an opponent to Nixon. "Maximum firepower support" was supplied by the US which, in preparation of the operation, had fielded a huge air and naval force in the most ferocious assaults on the liberated area of Southern Quang Tri. *AFP* reported on July 26 that B-52s alone dumped on Quang Tri-Thua Thien 2,730 tons of bombs out of the 3,000 tons used for the whole of South Viet Nam. *UPI* said on the same day that at least 12 warships of the 7th Fleet and 31 flights of B-52s – on some days up to 100 strategic bombers were committed – had pounded the battleground north of the My Chanh river.

In spite of this formidable US air and naval deployment, the Saigon soldiers came under a cross fire as soon as they came out of their defence line along the My Chanh river, and suffered heavy losses.

In the first ten days, from June 26 to July 7, the PLAF wiped out 14 enemy companies, badly mauled 5 battalions and 8 companies, shot down 33 aircraft, destroyed 57 military vehicles and 21 heavy guns, put out of action 3,850 enemy troops. As they crossed over the My Chanh river to the North, Saigon paratroops and marines were bloodied: over 1,000 of them were knocked out on June 28 and 29, 10 companies written off, 1 battalion and 2 companies heavily battered in 3 days from July 2 to 4. On June 30 alone, Liberation AA units shot down 13 aircraft including 6 F4s.

Thus right at the beginning of their operation, more than 20,000 strategic reserve troops boasted by the US-Saigon command as their "crack" elements took a serious punishment. One third of the strength of their two divisions were put out of combat, and the remaining part, panic-striken and war-weary, was attacked from all sides. Casualties went up with every passing day despite a "mobile fire-power curtain" provided by nearly 80 B-52s, 100 jets and dozens of warships from the 7th Fleet for the cautious advance of the Saigon troops. US advisers had to recognize that "South Viet Nam advancing columns were meeting with difficulties; the appearance of Communist troops in the Eastern plain worried military commanders. West of Highway No 1, Viet Cong resistance was also very powerful, in the teeth of the bombing and strafing of US aircraft and war vessels" (*AFP*, July 3). Western correspondents covering the operation every day gave reports about troops being "violently stopped right at the start," "Communist artillery ploughing the surface of Highway No 1," "the operation was marking time and facing the danger of bogging down."

On July 8, the Tri-Thien PLAF launched a vigorous assault on 2 Saigon para battalions No 7 and No 11 nuddling on both sides of Highway No 1, North-west of My Chanh, and intercepted adverse marines east of the same highway, wiping out and capturing 600 of them. From July 9 to 11, while in Southern Quang Tri the adversary was subjected to a series of onsets – 1,000 troops knocked out, 9 aircraft downed including troop-laden bi-sized O4.46 helicopters – the PLAF in Thua Thien province struck at Saigon Division 1 entrusted with the defence of Hue. PLAF artillery heavily pounded enemy positions, wrecking dozens of ordnance pieces including 105mm and 155mm guns, setting off thousands of shells. The Phu Bai complex, 6 miles South-east of Hue city, had 17 depots entirely destroyed, 10,000 tons of bombs and shells blown up and the complex burnt for two consecutive days. While their troops were getting thrashed, "capable neither of advancing nor retreating" (*AFP*, July 8) the US-Saigon regime resorted to a cheap psywar ploy by ballyhooing the "reoccupation of Quang Tri town" (*BBC*, July 5) only "to compel US advisers to give a strong denial to this news" (*UPI*, July 7). And nobody "now talks of recapturing Quang Tri by July 13, the reopening day of the Paris Conference" (*AFP* July 10).

Keeping up their relentless offensive, the Tri-Thien PLAF, making deep thrusts and hitting hard at the enemy, foiled all his tactics: "creeping advance", "leap frog", etc. They attacked both his advancing columns North of the My Chanh river and his positions on Highway No 12, shelled his sanctuary in Hue city, smashed his logistic bases, destroyed tens of thousands of tons of ammunition, burning millions of litres of fuel. In three days from June 12 to 14, they put out action 1,400 enemy troops, grounded 14 aircraft including a helicopter carrying the colonel, deputy-commander and chief-of-staff of the para division and a number of his staff officers. A general balance-sheet covering June 28 to July 18 shows that in 20 days the toll of paratroops and marines ran to 9,680.

Not only were the US-Saigon Command unable to "turn the offensive tide" of the South Vietnamese people and armed forces, they moreover went from one debacle to another (*AFP* and *Time*). Their psywar machine continually tried to sell "feats of arms" achieved by "fighters of the Republican army," but Western correspondents at the front, basing themselves on facts, kept on reporting that the Saigon troops were running into a "trap," or a "well-prepared battleground", that "officers present on the battlefield admitted that their losses were higher than those of the Communists" (*Reuter*, July 17), that after 3 weeks of counter-offensive, Thieu could recapture only less than 10% of this province" (*UPI*, July 17) and that "he continued to be beaten and was now unable to conceal his reverses."

Operation "Lam Son 712" is already doomed. The US-Saigon regime has to pay a high price for its adventurous drive into the liberated area of Quang Tri province. They are getting seriously bogged down and will certainly experience a humiliating setback.

Enemy position dismantled by PLAF fighters

More munitions to the front

OVER the past 18 years, the US imperialists, crudely trampling underfoot the 1954 Geneva Agreements, have unceasingly encroached on our independence and sovereignty, and waged an unprecedentedly cruel colonial war in an attempt to turn the southern part of our country into a new-type colony and a military base of the United States.

With the "Vietnamization" policy, the Nixon Administration has been trying to hold on to South Viet Nam through extremely barbarous and perfidious tricks. For over three months now, the US imperialists have mobilized the largest air and naval forces since the beginning of this war, to rain, night and day, bombs and shells on both zones of our country, and, in defiance of international law, they have mined and blockaded the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, an independent and sovereign country. They have launched repeated raids of extermination against densely populated areas, towns and cities including Hanoi capital city, destroying dykes, water conservancy works, economic establishments, schools, hospitals, creches..., massacring our countrymen.

The Nixon Administration protests its "desire for peace," yet it has brought the Viet Nam war to higher level of atrocity than ever. It claims readiness to withdraw all US troops, yet it actually retains "residual troops" in South Viet Nam while increasing the US forces on the 7th Fleet and in the air bases in Thailand with a view to launching barbarous attacks on Viet Nam and the other Indochinese countries. It claims to respect the South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination, yet it imposes on them a stooge administration in an attempt to carry out US neo-colonialism in the southern part of our country.

The hysteric move of war escalation against the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam has not changed in any way the predicament of the US aggressors and Thieu in South Viet Nam. The "Vietnamization" policy is still facing the threat of total collapse. In spite of this, the Nixon Administration obdurately pursues its scheme of resorting to military force and perfidious political and diplomatic manoeuvres to compel our people to accept a settlement on US terms.

The US aggressors must realize the following: the Vietnamese people deeply cherish peace, but a peace in real independence and freedom. Just as the United States belongs to the Americans, Viet Nam belongs to the Vietnamese; Viet Nam's affairs must be settled by the Vietnamese people themselves, without any foreign interference.

The US government must scrupulously respect the independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Viet Nam, and effectively respect the South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination. Such is the correct path which makes it possible for the United States to get out of the Viet Nam war which is so costly to it in terms of lives and property. That is also the aspiration of the American people and the world's peoples.

As long as the US imperialists continue their aggression in Viet Nam, the Vietnamese people in the whole country, united as one man, and acting upon the Testament of the venerated President Ho Chi Minh, will fight on against the aggressors, and defend at any cost the independence and freedom of their Fatherland.

(President Ton Duc Thang's Appeal on the occasion of July 20)

THE NFL Central Committee and RSVN PRG solemnly declare: Independence, sovereignty and unity and territorial integrity of Viet Nam constitute sacred and inalienable rights of the Vietnamese people. The Vietnamese people will not tolerate the encroachment by the US imperialists upon even an inch of the Vietnamese land, be it is in the South or in the North. The US must end its aggression and its "Vietnamization of the war" policy, stop its support for the dictatorial and bellicose regime of Nguyen Van Thieu and all US involvement in South Viet Nam, stop the bombing, shelling, mining blockade and all other acts of war against the DRVN, strictly respect all the fundamental national rights of the Vietnamese people and the right to self-determination of the South Vietnamese people, seriously negotiate in Paris and positively respond to the RSVN PRG's seven-point proposal, the two key points of which have been elaborated. The South Vietnamese people deeply cherish peace, but this must be a peace in real independence and freedom. As long as the US continues its aggression, the South Vietnamese people will continue their fight to oppose aggression till total victory.

Expressing the South Vietnamese people and liberation armed force's determination to fight and to defeat the US aggressors and their deepest sentiments towards their blood-sealed compatriots in the North, the NFL Central Committee and the RSVN PRG declare their full support to President Ton Duc Thang's urgent appeal on the occasion of July 20, 1972.

Acting upon venerated President Ho Chi Minh's Testament, the South Vietnamese people and PLAF are determined to dash forward, step the US-puppets' counter-offensives in order to defend and enlarge the liberated areas and carry on the fight till the US quits and the puppets topple. That is the way to bring the resistance to US aggression, for national salvation to complete victory, to liberate the South, defend the North, build an independent, democratic, peaceful, neutral and prosperous South Viet Nam and proceed to the peaceful reunification of the country, thus actively defending the North, the base of the revolution in the whole of our country.

No brutal force, no insolent threat, no political trick and no perfidious diplomatic manoeuvre of the US imperialist aggressors can shake the iron-like determination and will of the people and PLAF of South Viet Nam.

The NFL Central Committee and the RSVN PRG firmly believe that the people and the government of the various countries, the peace- and justice-loving organizations in the world and the progressive people in the United States will continue their positive actions to stop the bloody hands of the Nixon administration, intensify their suppport and asisstance to the just fight of the Vietnamese, Cambodian and Lao people till their complete victory.

(Statement of the NFL CC and the PRG of RSVN)

HIGHWAY 13 : 22,000 enemy put out of action

DURING 100 days of continual attack on Highway 13, Binh Long province, the South Viet Nam People's Liberation Armed Forces from April 5 to July 15 killed, wounded or captured over 22,000 US and Saigon troops.

Highway 13 is one of the important strategic roads in Eastern Nam Bo along which the US-puppets have built one of the strongest defence line and stationed a huge Saigon force commanded by American "advisers."

In the previous years, this highway had been the graveyard of many seasoned units of the US-puppets such as the US 1st Infantry Division, the US Air Cavalry Division, the US 173rd Paratroop Brigade, the US 11th Armoured regiment and the Saigon 5th Division.

Since early April this year, in coordination with the armed forces and people throughout South Viet Nam, the PLAF on the Highway 13 front have launched violent attacks, wiping out a big portion of the enemy live force and destroying large quantities of their war means.

In the first three days of the offensive (April 5-7), the PLAF in Eastern Nam Bo wiped out a series of key positions along the 100-km defence perimeter north of Saigon, breaking the enemy's strongest defence perimeter in the area. The PLAF completely knocked out the 52nd Multibattalion Task Force Unit and the 1st Armoured Regiment of the Saigon army, put out of combat the Saigon 5th Infantry Division, completely liberated Loc Ninh district and many other vast areas along Highway 13. The whole 9th Multi-battalion Task Force Unit of the puppets surrendered to the Liberation Army.

On the crest of their victory, the liberation forces swiftly surrounded the enemy inside An Loc town, cut off the enemy supply along this highway (north of Chon Thanh) and pinned down a big force of the enemy regular army in this area.

To relieve the beleaguered An Loc town, the US-puppets hurriedly scraped up their troops in Saigon and the Mekong delta and threw them into the Highway 13 front. The relief force included the 21st and 18th Infantry Divisions and a Regiment of the 9th Infantry Division, a number of armour and ranger units and the 1st Paratroop Brigade, all directly commanded by American officers.

In the meantime, the US sent a large number of USAF planes including B.52s to co-ordinate with the Saigon troops in bombing and strafing most intensively either side of the highway in an attempt to break off the PLAF siege. But far from saving the situation, they have lost 100 aircraft of various types.

US-puppets launched frenzied attacks in a desperate attempt to clear the road. One day, the US flew 21 sorties of B.52s against the area but to no avail. The 21st Division, the 1st Paratroop Brigade, the 15th Regiment of the 9th Division sent by the US and Nguyen Van Thieu to open the road and relieve the troops in An Loc have all taken heavy losses. Many puppet units fled from the region. The 9th Armoured Regiment has been virtually wiped out.

Since mid-June, the US and their puppets dispatched the multi-battalion task force units Nos. 43 and 48 of the 18th Infantry Division, the 46th Multi-battalion Unit of the 25th Infantry Division and the 5th Multi-battalion unit of commandos as reinforcements. These units in their turns sustained heavy losses. On some days, the liberation forces killed hundreds of enemy troops and shot down a dozen aircraft.

After one hundred days of fighting (from April 5 to July 15, 1972) under very fierce bombing by the US and its puppets, the liberation fighters on the Highway 13 front wiped out or captured over 22,000 enemy troops, including many American officers, put out of combat the 1st and 9th Armoured Regiments, the 52nd Multi-battalion Task Force Unit and 10 infantry and artillery battalions. The entire 9th Multi-battalion Unit surrendered. The liberation forces put out of combat the 5th Infantry Division, decimated the 21st Infantry Division, the 1st Paratroop Brigade and the 15th Regiment of the 9th Infantry Division. In terms of war means, the PLAF on the Highway 13 front shot down or destroyed on the ground over 200 planes of various types mostly planes of the USAF, seized or wrecked 600 military vehicles (one-third of which were tanks and armoured cars), 150 cannons and heavy mortars, and captured thousands of firearms of different kinds.

Highway 13 remains cut off with many important sections still under the PLAF's control.

Nguyen Dinh Chieu

South Viet Nam's 19th century most prominent poet patriot

Editor's Note — *Nguyen Dinh Chieu was a poet patriot famous for his paeans to the Vietnamese people's resistance to Western aggressors, right at the outset of their invasion. He was a Chinese scholar, native of bountiful Dong Nai and lived at a time when the country in distress expected every one from the common people to the enlightened intelligentsia to rise up in arms. His blindness prevented any other activity than writing patriotic poems and essays of a high literary and spiritual value. They also marked a tragic but glorious episode in our national history. His life, overshadowed by the national drama and personal misery was in itself a parangon of courage, moral fortitude and fervid patriotism.*

His works are full of militancy and aim straight at the enemy and his native agents:

After innumerable crossings ferrying resistance fighters, the boat needs no caulking,

Despite many satirical verses scoring traitors to the land my pen is still sharp.

Standard bearer of our patriotic prose and verse of modern times, his creations are very popular and occupy an important place in Vietnamese literature. On the occasion of his 150th birthday anniversary, we are reproducing below an article by literary critic **Song Thu**: *"The Resistance Fighter in Nguyen Dinh Chieu's Works."*

IN the Nguyen Gia Long time, Vietnamese feudal society was in the throes of a deep crisis. After national hero Nguyen Hue died, the Nguyen reactionary feudalists staged a comeback and cracked down ferociously on the honest people and on those who did not see eye to eye with them. To preserve their selfish interests and throne, the Nguyen Kings sought foreign assistance to stamp out popular discontent at home. Nguyen Anh or Gia Long, founder of the Nguyen dynasty whose last scion is Bao Dai, was utterly hostile to the people and relied strongly on Western aggressive colonialism which was left free to pry into the affairs of the state and gradually infiltrate our country.

Nguyen Dinh Chieu was born in such a troubled time. Intelligent, studious and full of the desire for self-improvement and respect for righteousness, he unfortunately lost his sight at 26. This unhappy occurrence was only one of many other heart-rending miseries, which were seemingly insuperable obstacles in the way of a youth with great hopes. But he refused to let the vicissitudes of life sway his destiny and dedicated all his talent to the service of the national cause. In this he found the ultimate fulfilment of his elevated aspirations.

While teaching disciples, he wrote; though his poor health and blindness were no mean difficulties for him to remain in close touch with reality. He displayed an extraordinary sense of purpose, incredible patience and tireless industriousness. The long tale in verse of Luc Van Tien, his masterpiece still known by heart by the masses came into being in such a context.

In the late 1850's the French colonialists' aggressive design and the submissiveness of the Nguyen Kings insensed the Vietnamese, and first of all, the South Vietnamese people's anger. Nguyen Dinh Chieu's homeland was one of the first target of the enemy guns.

Only some bubbles mark the emplacement of Ben Nghe

The dark shadow of clouds tinge the thatch and tiles of Dong Nai.

And he asked the Nguyen Court military this nagging question:

Where are the soldiery you used to hurl against popular rebellions?

Why leave the poor masses in such a predicament?

And he completely identified himself with the "poor masses," got into touch with Binh La and Truong Dinh, two dissenting military commanders of the period, galvanized with his writings the patriotic movement of scholars and men of letters, supported by the people. He scathingly scored the crimes of the invaders and the infamous behaviour of the Nguyen rulers. At the same time he depicted with striking vividness the combatants fighting the enemy with arms in hand.

When one of their leaders, Phan Cong Tong, fell a hero at Giong Gach, he cried out in admiration:

In only one battle, heaven and earth could gauge the magnitude of his bravery.

To the most gallant warriors of history he proved no unworthy equal.

In more lines written in the memory of the same hero, he also castigated the ruling king's treachery:

The hero preferred death to French domination,

Found it a bliss to fall in the field of honour,

The bullet of treason hit him in his chest,

The sword of righteousness was held firm in his hand.

Heaven will not be alone to mourn him for three months

Hatred will seethe in our hearts for thousands of years...

In his funeral oration for Truong Dinh, who had resigned his generalship at the Court to take over the command of a popular army of insurgents, the poet extolled the masses' love for the land, for those who defend it and their sense of discipline:

Heading only the call of the people, he ignored the herald bearer of the king's behest who for many li's tried to gain his ear, and unhesitatingly shouldered the responsibility to command a popular army.

Raising high the standard of insurrection, he was followed by enlightened scholars of no less than three provinces, and his writ ran there unchallenged, when he decided to recruit troops."*

Nguyen Dinh Chieu was well aware that Truong Dinh had clearly realized the discrepancy between his strength and the enemy's. Hence his higher esteem for the latter's single-mindedness and contempt of death:

Well he knew the might of the French invaders and their devilish tricks,

Their warships made of metal, their guns replete with bullets, their troops uncountable.

Well he knew the helplessness of the ancient weapons and the ineffectiveness of the present armoury.

But what wouldn't one do for the fatherland, even at the risk of one's life. And nothing one is loath to attempt for justice's sake, though success is uncertain.

In the Rach La and Go Cong battles they were awed by his courage,

In all parts of the land, one is still wonder-stricken by his boldness.

Then in the anti-French resistance of Cochinchina, the Can Giuoc insurrection inspired another famous oration in memory of the fearless insurgents. He had always felt a particular affection for the working masses and it is in that work that he sang their determination to fight invaders and quislings alike.

He waited for news of the outcome of their fighting like "drought-scorched fields waiting for rain," his heart burning with hatred for the enemy, which was similar to the "peasants' aversion for weeds."

He lauded their bravery, unimpaired by overwhelming odds like lack of combat experience, arms and ammunition, food and clothing:

Unused to horse and arrow, familiar only to plough and ox, they had no other weapons than bamboo sticks, no other armour than thin pieces of coarse cloth.

With flintlocks they set fire to Mission houses,

With cleavers they beheaded enemy lieutenants.

Inspirited by the incessant exhortations of tamtams and tocsins, they charged, oblivious of the deluge of bullets big and small from adverse guns of all sizes. They hit left and right, and struck panic into the enemy's heart.

The Can Giuoc farmers had a very lucid notion of life and death, and a clear comprehension of each one's significance. Nguyen Dinh Chieu's appraisal of their philosophy of life was much more progressive than his predecessors'. He was deeply conscious of their attachment to the land of their ancestors and to the latter's memory:

Better die for the fatherland and join one's ancestors in glory than live under a foreign rule and submit to barbarians in ignominy...

Oh! to die and discharge one's debt toward the nation and earn a name in six provinces, oh! to die and win a niche in the temple of fame which never fades.

In all our patriotic literature, the *Funeral Oration for Can Giuoc Insurgents*, one of Chieu's masterworks in style and sentiment, ranks as one of the most perfect achievements.

For 40 years plagued by infirmity and illness, he never despaired of life. He remained in profound communion with what was happening around him, among his people, in his homeland.

For nearly a century since his passing away, the South Vietnamese have been carrying on what he glorified in his writings. The cause has not changed, only the adversary has.

The US invaders and their agents are still riding roughshod on An Duc (Ba Tri), where his tomb is located. Looking toward it from liberated Ben Tre, a young poet **Le Anh Xuan** has written these lines:

Looking toward An Duc

I see in the moonlight

Lurking shadows of guerillas

Fading into the enemy-held area.

To night they will sleep near his tomb.

Today the Can Giuoc brave have reappeared everywhere in South Viet Nam with an unprecedented mettle and might. And younger generations of poets have been treading in Nguyen Dinh Chieu's footsteps.

SONG THU

* *South Viet Nam proper at that time consisted of 6 provinces.*

Abundant strawberry crop at Ba Vi state farm

THE DRVN IN BRIEF

— Minister of State Dang Thi, Director of the Premier's Office, has, on behalf of the DRVN Government, conferred an Independence Medal, 2nd class, on I.K. Ishenko, Deputy Economic Counsellor of the Soviet Embassy in Hanoi, for his achievements in helping the Vietnamese resistance against US aggression and socialist construction.

— An extraordinary enlarged session was held by the Presidium of the Fatherland Front to discuss President Ton Duc Thang's July 20 (18th anniversary of the signing of the Geneva Agreements) message and outline the tasks confronting the Front, so as to bring into full play national unity within the Front, mobilize the whole people and armed forces to uphold the traditional heroism of the nation in carrying on and intensifying the patriotic effort against US aggression until final victory.

— A rally was held by A.A. Unit 41 to welcome President Ton Duc Thang's message to the unit. An emulation drive was initiated under the slogan: "Each fighter to do two good actions a day". All officers and men of the unit pledged to "undergo persevering training, keep combat-ready, be always on the look-out and score direct hits at intruding US planes."

— Hundreds of families in Ninh Giang, Khoai Chau and Nam Sach districts, Hai Hung province, have sent letters to recruiting centres, requesting that members of theirs be accepted as volunteers for the army. Mothers accompanied their sons to the centres, and guerilla units prepared themselves to go to the front when marching orders came.

— The Military Committee of Uong Bi town, Quang Ninh province, has received hundreds of applications from young men and members of the Labour Youth Union to join the army.

— Units of the Yen The air force are continuing a good routine: to draw experience after each training flight as well as after each air combat. Training courses are run for them with a curriculum fitting the realities of fighting. All pilots emulate each other in making the most of their time studying flying routes, effective tactical methods and good combat coordination.

— Infantry Unit 7 of the North Western Military Region and Unit U of the Navy have opened training courses on combat techniques for raw recruits. After a month's training under the slogan "All for the frontline, master good fighting methods," the courses ended in success.

— "Experience-drawing" sessions were organized by units of the Ha Tinh armed forces to learn from friendly units. An emulation drive was launched for bringing down US planes and sinking or setting afire US war vessels.

New combat plans were drawn by units and localities in the province and manoeuvres were staged accordingly.

Cambodia

— Nearly 7,200 enemy wiped out
— Large areas in Takeo and Kompong Speu liberated

IN June 1972, all the three armed services of the Cambodian National Liberation Armed Forces, in closely coordinated actions, violently and devastatingly attacked the enemy on all battlefields, *AKI* reported.

According to still incomplete figures, in the said period, the Cambodian army and people knocked out close to 7,200 adverse troops including 25 field officers. In terms of units, they wiped out or heavily decimated 18 battalions, 13 companies and an armoured column, levelled, or forced the evacuation of, 65 bases or positions, destroyed 23 military vehicles including 9 tanks and other armoured cars, downed 7 aircraft, sank 5 war vessels and seized 800 firearms of various calibres.

Most dramatic were the NLAF offensives on Phnom Penh Brigade 13 in Pang Lovea region (Kompong Speu province) from June 20 to 25 which resulted in 14 adverse positions or bases rased to the ground and 4 enemy battalions including the two elite units (BE32 and BE190) and 3 companies quickly wiped out. In this campaign, the Cambodian patriotic forces put out of action over 700 enemy, captured 4 tons of ammunition and other war materials and 120 firearms, and liberated 5 more villages belonging to Oudong Sam and Rung Tong districts with nearly 50,000 inhabitants. This was a comprehensive feat in which the three armed services of the NLAF in Kompong Speu harmoniously combined their actions and with these effectively assisted the people's uprising in sweeping away the enemy coercive and repressive machinery.

Also in June, the army and people in Prey Veng assaulted many enemy positions inside the province and along Highway No. 1. In only four days ending June 23, the NLAF inflicted 1,075 enemy casualties (including one battalion and two companies wholly written off), flattened 2 important bases in Vat Pothivong and Penh Xala. The revolutionary fighters also infiltrated enemy rear bases, burnt down and exploded many petrol and arm depots, wrecked two 105mm guns, sent to the bottom or shot afire 4 war vessels, captured one military vehicle and over 250 firearms of various types.

From June 7 to 15, the NLAF in Kompong Cham repeatedly battered the enemy on Highway 7 (from Skoul to Prey Tetung), putting out of combat over 600 enemy, badly mauling 5 battalions and an armoured column.

The major gains recorded by the Cambodian army and people last June have further compounded the US-quisling predicament. The liberated areas in Takeo and Kompong Speu have been further broadened, and over 70,000 inhabitants were liberated. Over 1,500 families and 220 Buddhist monks in the enemy-held areas crossed into the liberated zone to take part in the anti-US-Phnom Penh resistance.

Laos

— Khonsedone liberated
— Operation "Black Lion" foiled

FOLLOWING up their 1971-72 dry-season dramatic successes, the Saravane people and armed forces, coordinating action with their counterparts in all the country, have been stepping up their attacks against the enemy.

The new wave of offensives started on the night of May 5, 1972 when many positions around Khonsedone town, North of Pakse, came under fire. In the following days, all side-roads leading from South Khonsedone to Sebanghien were cut off and all bridges on Highway No. 13 destroyed. Khonsedone town was totally isolated. The enemy stationed there was panic-stricken. Keeping a keen eye on the developments, on May 17, 1972, the Saravane People's Liberation Army joining hands with guerilla units launched a powerful onset on the enemy in Khonsedone and completely liberated the town.

Khonsedone was the first town to be freed on US-Saigon defence line along strategic Highway No. 13. Many USAF-supported battalions sent on rescue missions were put to rout. Meanwhile urban centres and enemy positions around Khonsedone were assaulted. The Lao People's Liberation Army occupied Vapi, 15km Northeast of Khonsedone, Phiaphay district capital, 30 miles south of Pakse, chopped up Highway No 13. into 4 sections, and isolated and put under pressure Pakse.

Confronted with this critical situation, on June 15, 1972, the US imperialists and their lackeys mustered 7,000 Vientiane troops, Vang Pao "special forces" and Thai mercenaries, with maximum US air support, in an attempt to recapture Khonsedone. This operation was codenamed "Black Lion" and directed by General Kouprasith Abhay, deputy commander-in-chief of the Vientiane army, one of the most bloodthirsty Lao generals.

US planes opened this operation by savagely bombing all villages on their flight route. The Vientiane Defence Minister and administration's representative in South Laos even threatened more intensive bombing. Such atrocities, however, were duly punished by the highly vigilant people and armed forces of Saravane who went into action, as soon as the enemy concentrated their troops or got out of their helicopters. Hundreds of enemy troops were wiped out or captured, many aircraft downed, and the survivors took to flight towards their staging base.

And so, Operation "Black Lion" was foiled right at its outset.

From May 5, 1972 to June 30, 1972, according to still incomplete statistics, the Saravane people and armed forces put out of action 800 enemy, captured and destroyed hundreds of weapons of all kinds, and downed 11 aircraft.

This new victory has compounded US-Vientiane military, political, economic predicament in the wake of their dry-season lamentable setbacks.

NIXON HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR GENOCIDE IN VIET NAM

JUST as the Norwegian paper *Arbeidet* remarked on July 5, 1972, "only those who are lost to all sense of humanity and deprived of all conscience would not condemn in one way or another the US war (in Viet Nam)."

In July, public opinion in the world and in the US indignantly scored US deployment of B-52s and warships in extermination bombardments even with bombs and shells containing toxic gas on many parts of South Viet Nam and in air raids on many towns, populous areas and even the dyke system in North Viet Nam. Broad sections of public opinion also forcefully denounced US imperialism for brazenly and thoroughly wrecking the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam.

Statements, resolutions and appeals of State leaders of many Asian, European, African and Latin American countries, of the various international and regional organizations, political parties and national organizations, and conventions of political parties and mass organizations in Western and Northern Europe, as well as many well-known personalities, intellectuals and writers and artists in the world unanimously pointed out that Nixon's frenzied moves were solely aimed at saving "Vietnamization" and maintaining the rotten Saigon regime. They condemned Nixon's as crimes even more loathsome than Hitler's and, with these crimes, his violation of the principles of the Nuremberg international tribunal and his true nature as the most brutal aggressor, the number one perpetrator of biocide and genocide of our time.

"Nixon murderer," "Nixon, war-maniac", "Nixon perpetrator of genocide"..., such have been the designations used by the world press to call the White House rulers and the angry outcries of people of all walks of life at meetings and ebullient demonstrations against the US aggressors held in the socialist countries, the anti-imperialist Third World countries and in many Western countries including the United States, France, West Germany, Spain, Norway...

This year, the 4th of July, Independence Day of the United States, has become a day of anti-US rallies in many countries in the world. In Sweden, famous writer Sara Lidman declared before an anti-US demonstration in front of the US Embassy: "It is Nixon who has dishonoured the United States... Let us boycott American goods, and films. We won't eat American rice. We want to show Nixon our deep indignation." In Norway, the American flag had to be lowered at the US Embassy before the fiery mood of the crowds.

Meanwhile, the US return to the Paris Conference on Viet Nam on July 13 under heavy public pressure and the 18th anniversary of the Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam provided new opportunities for the people in many countries to step up their actions for US serious negotiations and acceptance of the reasonable 7-point solution of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam.

Consensus of world opinion

"For many years now the American militarists have waged a war in Viet Nam, grossly violating the Geneva Agreements on Indochina and the most elementary norms of international law. US imperialism has been guilty of very grave crimes" (*All-Union Central Council of Trade Union of the U.S.S.R.*). "The US imperialists who have committed an armed aggression in South Viet Nam and the Indochinese countries still dare to charge North Viet Nam with "aggression against South Viet Nam." This is utter nonsense. That the people of North Viet Nam assist their kith and kin of the South is obviously quite natural. The people of Viet Nam and the peoples of Indochina demand that US imperialism withdraw all US troops and troops of its satellites from Viet Nam and Indochina, which is a legitimate claim. The Saigon regime created by the US, recognized by nobody and opposed by the entire people of South Viet Nam, has changed heads many times. The people of South Viet Nam are urging the acceptance of the seven points of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, the two key points of which have been clarified. They have proposed that the military and political questions be not separated. Such an offer is already very generous. If the US returns to the conference table but still refuses to accept this, it will supply a clear indication that it is bent on continuing the war of aggression" (*Chinese Prime Minister*).

"Of late, under the impact of the people and Liberation Army of South Viet Nam and the pressure of public opinion in the world and in the United States, the US government, in order to continue deceiving public opinion, have declared "their readiness to carry on their troop withdrawals from South Viet Nam." The fact, however, is that they are intensifying their electronical and genocidal war under the 'Vietnamization' label. The US said it would keep up the pacification effort. This means that it will increase bombing and shelling in support of the Saigon quislings, a gang of torturers and extortionists. This also means that the US will help its agents build more prisons and concentration camps. However, the successes of the National Front for Liberation have convincingly demonstrated that US imperialism will never be able to subdue the peoples of Indochina nor prevent them from regaining national independence. These gains have further proved that the NFL is winning the support of the overwhelming majority of the South Vietnamese people while the Saigon regime can survive only by the force of US bayonets" (*Resolution of the Communist Party of Germany* — West Germany).

"The US imperialists' dastardly blockade and savage bombing of North Viet Nam, reminiscent of the fascists' deeds in the past... is only the rabid reaction of a wild beast at bay, ready to resort to the most brutal vicious and inhuman means against the Vietnamese people. Though the US has deployed the biggest force ever known in its history, it has proved utterly powerless before the Vietnamese people. Its total failure is inevitable." (*Albanian Vice-Premier*).

"The struggle of the Vietnamese people is to defend the right to live of all oppressed peoples, that is why everyone has the duty to support them." (*President of the Algerian Council of Ministers*). The Swedish Prime Minister stressed: "One cannot remain indifferent when principal human values are at stake, when the rights of the Vietnamese are challenged and their resources destroyed. To Sweden, neutrality does not mean isolation or a passive attitude."

Former US Defence Secretary Clark M. Clifford has once more come out against Nixon. He said: "This is 1972 and it alarms me to hear a president talk of a decisive military action to end the war. For surely we have learned over the last ten years, in the most painful possible way, that there is no decisive military action that will end the war. These revealing words illuminate the tragic truth about the policy that the Nixon administration is really following — a policy that assures a continuation of the war, and many will confront the president with another series of difficult and dangerous choices... We are in Viet Nam today because we made the mistake of getting into Viet Nam yesterday. Our national security is certainly not at stake... The president's program will not work" (*Washington Post*, July 12).

Nixon's sinister design was also exposed in the French paper *Le Monde* on July 8: "Nixon is ordering the killing of civilians, women and children. He is ordering the destruction of the towns, and the destruction of the foundations of a country, not to win the war but buy time, the time necessary for him to get re-elected. Among the many violations of principles that we, Western countries, have committed, none of them has reached such a level of horridness and infamy."

In particular, many noted scientists, journalists, writers and artists of France, Britain, the United States, and Sweden have made no mean contribution to bare the scheme and criminal acts of Nixon against the Vietnamese people. With evidence brought back from Viet Nam, with their experimentations with plastic pellet bombs, with their documentary films, investigations and discoveries, with their impartial accounts of what they had seen and heard in Viet Nam, they have helped the world peoples realize more clearly the inhuman character of the US imperialists, forcing the White House and Pentagon rulers to make one denial after another and give one lame justification after another. On July 17, Melvin Laird acknowledged part of the US atrocities by saying that the dykes and hydraulic works in North Viet Nam might be damaged in the bombings by American planes.

However, whether the US owns its crimes or not, public opinion has already made it clear that "should the dykes of North Viet Nam break during this summer, responsibility for this genocidal crime entirely rests with Nixon" (*Declaration of 500 progressive French intellectuals, writers and artists*).

The higher runs their feeling against Nixon and company, the greater admiration the world's peoples show for the heroic and dauntless fighting spirit of the Vietnamese. Many mass organizations in various countries have sent messages acclaiming the glorious feats of arms of the Vietnamese in both zones of the country against the frantic war adventure of the US imperialists. The press of many countries have devoted special pages or issues to denouncing US crimes in Viet Nam, while their radios and televisions broadcast special programs on the fight and successes of the Vietnamese people. The magazine *Porque* published in the Mexican capital has put out a special issue devoting all its 70 pages to Viet Nam. In a commentary titled "Viet Nam, Bulwark of Mankind", its editor wrote:

"Never in history has a nation achieved such a high in fortitude, courage, sense of honour, perseverance and loyalty as the Vietnamese nation. Never has a nation made so immense sacrifices for the cause of freedom and progress of all nations in the world."

Swedish youth's action against Nixon's war escalation in Viet Nam.